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December 21, 2009

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Rep. Melancon continued, **"Member appropriations like these allow Louisianians to bypass agency bureaucrats in Washington and go directly to their elected representatives to secure federal funding for important projects in their communities."**

\$3,396,000 in Melancon-secured investments were included in the FY10 Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 3288), which was signed into law by the President last week. Congressman Melancon also secured \$4 million in investments benefiting south Louisiana in the FY10 Defense Appropriations Bill, which was passed by Congress over the weekend and will be signed into law shortly by the President.

Congressman Melancon secured \$35,045,000 for hurricane protection, flood control, dredging, and energy projects in the Third Congressional District in the FY10 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act (P.L. 111-85), which was signed into law in October. Also

signed into law in October was the FY10 Agriculture Appropriations Act (P.L. 111-80), which included \$7,250,000 in investments benefiting south Louisiana.

Rep. Melancon worked to secure the following projects and investments for south Louisiana in the 2010 appropriations bills:

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### **Hurricane Protection & Flood Control Projects**

**\$5,800,000 to upgrade the Larose to Golden Meadow Levee System.** This funding will go toward upgrading this ring levee system to help provide a 100-year level of hurricane protection to the communities located along Bayou Lafourche between Larose and Golden Meadow.

**\$386,000 to study the proposed Donaldsonville to the Gulf Levee System.** This investment will fund a feasibility study for a project to reduce the risk of flooding from coastal storm surge and rainfall, and to prevent further economic losses and environmental damage in the Barataria Basin.

**\$14,491,000 to continue levee improvements in the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway.** This funding will support continued construction of the Atchafalaya Basin project, a leveed floodway about 15 miles wide and 110 miles long that extends from Old River, LA, to the Gulf of Mexico. The principal role of the Atchafalaya Basin floodway is to convey half of the Mississippi Rivers' floodwaters safely to the Gulf of Mexico. In all, the project contains 449 miles of levees. Continuing construction of levee improvements is critical to protect the lives of thousands of people and critical hurricane evacuation infrastructure in the region.

**\$157,000 to study flood control in St. Charles Parish.** This funding will be used to investigate methods to reduce flood damages caused by rainfall. Alternatives under consideration include pump stations in the existing hurricane protection levee and interior drainage improvements

**\$170,000 to study stronger flood and hurricane protection for the west shore of Lake Pontchartrain.** This funding will be used to study the cost of providing better hurricane and storm damage risk reduction to residents on the west shore of Lake Pontchartrain. Major flooding problems in the area occurred as a result of Hurricanes Betsy (1965), Juan (1985), Katrina (2005), Gustav and Ike (2008). The population of the study area has increased from 25,500 in 1960 to over 47,000 in 1990.

**\$300,000 for the New Iberia Multi-Use Center.** The City of New Iberia will use the funding toward construction of a multi-use center in New Iberia, which will be used as an evacuation center and supply hub during emergencies.

### **Navigational Channel Dredging Projects**

**\$11,062,000 for dredging the navigational channel on the Atchafalaya River & Bayous Chene, Boeuf, and Black.** This appropriation will be used to dredge and maintain the navigational channel between the Gulf of Mexico and rig fabrication and oil service facilities in the Amelia area, east of Morgan City. The channel in the Atchafalaya River is critical to the Port of Morgan City. The river system provides export access for the area's offshore oil and gas products and import access for raw materials.

**\$2,441,000 for maintenance and dredging of Houma Navigational Canal.** This funding will be used to maintain and dredge the Houma Navigation Canal, which extends 38 miles from the GIWW in Houma to the Gulf of Mexico.

**\$538,000 to study deepening the navigational channel from the Port of Iberia to the Gulf.** This funding will be used to investigate the feasibility of providing a deeper and wider navigation channel from the Port of Iberia to the Gulf of Mexico for the transportation of deepwater offshore exploration and production equipment fabricated at the port.

### Transportation Projects

**\$974,000 for LA 1 between Leeville and Port Fourchon.** This appropriation will be applied toward the next phase of the LA 1 Improvement Project, widening LA Highway 1 between Leeville and Golden Meadow. LA 1 is a critical transportation corridor for the offshore oil and natural gas industry operating in the Gulf of Mexico. Congressman Melancon has long been an [advocate](#) for improving LA 1 and has worked in Congress to secure over \$127.5 million in federal funding and loans for the La. 1 improvement project, which will eventually elevate the highway from Golden Meadow to Port Fourchon and protect it from flooding during storms and hurricanes. A 2008 economic impact study concluded that a three-week loss of services or access to Port Fourchon would result in a loss of nearly \$10 billion in sales at U.S. firms, a loss of over \$2.8 billion in household earnings, and a loss of 77,440 jobs nationwide.

**\$500,000 for Belle Chasse Bridge in Plaquemines Parish.** Funding will be used by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development toward the architecture and engineering phase of a new bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway, replacing the existing tunnel in Plaquemines Parish.

### Agriculture & Fisheries Investments

**\$174,000 to help the Gulf Coast oyster industry reduce illnesses from *Vibrio vulnificus* in shellfish.** Congressman Melancon secured federal funding for a consumer education campaign led by the oyster industry focused on reducing illnesses associated with *Vibrio vulnificus* in shellfish, avoiding the need for further restrictions by federal agencies on the sale of oysters. This federal investment will help the Gulf Coast oyster industry fund an education outreach program to at-risk consumers of raw oysters about the risk of eating raw oysters during certain times of the year and introducing them to post-harvest processed oysters that can

be consumed with less risk.

**\$3,654,000 for the ARS Sugarcane Laboratory in Houma, LA.** This will support continued construction of the laboratory, greenhouses, and other necessary facilities at the USDA's Agriculture Research Service's Sugarcane Research Laboratory's farm near Houma, LA. The current ARS research facilities are 15 miles from the farm and are not designed to handle an expanded program. Scientists at the Sugarcane Research Laboratory work to address the needs of the U.S. sugarcane industry through developing new sugarcane varieties and the production practices needed to grow these varieties.

**\$3,422,000 to expand the ARS sugarcane research lab in Florida.** Rep. Melancon co-sponsored a request for funding to construct and expand the USDA Agricultural Research Service Sugarcane Field Station at Canal Point, FL. This field station coordinates research with the ARS Sugarcane Research Lab in Houma, LA.

**\$325,000 for Institute of Seafood Studies at Nicholls State University.** Nicholls State University will utilize this funding to create an Institute for Seafood Studies to increase and coordinate research related to the sustainable fisheries and seafood industries. Commercial fishing is a major industry in south Louisiana, providing thousands of jobs in the state.

**\$69,000 for West Nile Virus Disease Prevention.** Several parasites and infectious diseases, including West Nile Virus, have been identified as killing farmed alligators. This funding will be used by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to continue studying these infectious diseases and parasites that are harmful to alligators and alligator habitats.

### **Law Enforcement Investments**

**\$200,000 for Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office.** Funding will be used by the Sheriff's Office to purchase new technology and equipment, including in-car cameras, to improve accountability and enhance the collection of evidence.

**\$147,000 for Boys Town Louisiana.** Funding will allow Boys Town, LA, to combine and expand their Boys Town Treatment Family Services Program and their In-Home Family Service Program to serve more at-risk youth in the juvenile justice system and their families.

### **Energy Research**

**\$1,000,000 for clean energy research projects at Nicholls State and other Louisiana universities.** This funding will support research being performed by the Clean Power Energy Consortium (CPERC), a joint venture between Louisiana State University, University of New Orleans, Tulane University, Southern University, Audubon Sugar Institute, University of Louisiana Lafayette and Nicholls State University. The consortium's research addresses critical scientific and engineering issues in power and energy generation.

### **Health Care Investments**

— **\$100,000 for Center for Wellness and Mental Health in St. Bernard Parish.** Funding will be used for the expansion of services at the Community Wellness and Mental Health Center in Chalmette, LA. The Center is a partnership between the St. Bernard Project and LSU Health Sciences Center Psychiatry Department.

**\$250,000 for Community Health Worker Training Institute at Tulane University.** Funds will be used to train community health professionals at Tulane University in New Orleans.

### **Education Investments**

— **\$300,000 for Louisiana Rural Literacy Program.** Funding will be used to continue Save the Children's in-school, summer, and afterschool literacy programs in Washington, St. Martin, and Tangipahoa parishes. Funding may be used to purchase new equipment and technology to support the literacy program.

**\$300,000 for 21st Century Community Learning Center in LaPlace.** Funding will be used by the River Region Multicultural Chamber Of Commerce to develop after-school and summer academic enrichment programs for at-risk children in the River Parishes.

### **Defense Projects**

**\$2,000,000 for Navy boats manufactured in Jeanerette, Louisiana.** Congressman Melancon secured \$2 million for the Navy to replace older watercraft with modern Force Protection Boats. The new boats will be manufactured by Metal Shark Aluminum Boats, a division of Gravois Aluminum Boats, which is a family-owned small business located in Jeanerette, Louisiana.

**\$2,000,000 for new technology at NASA's Michoud Facility in New Orleans.** Congressman Melancon secured \$2 million for 3D simulation and modeling technology for NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans and other defense facilities. The Integrated Manufacturing Systems 3D Simulation and Modeling Project will be used by NASA and the Department of Defense to retool in a cost effective manner.

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